

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) An external fixator for osteosynthesis, comprising:

an external retaining member configured and dimensioned for bridging separated bone segments;

a plurality of connecting elements configured and adapted for applying a clamping force to the separated bone segments, each connecting element having a first end and a second contact end, the first end configured and adapted for attachment to the retaining member and the second contact end configured and adapted for surface attachment to one of the separated bone segments without penetrating the bone segment; and

a plurality of control elements configured and adapted for varying the clamping pressure applied by the connecting elements, at least one control element being coordinated with a connecting element and supported in the retaining member.

25. (New) The fixator of claim 24, wherein the contact ends are spoon-shaped.

26. (New) The fixator of claim 24, wherein the contact ends are beveled and toothed.

27. (New) The fixator of claim 24, further comprising a counter-holder, the counter-holder connected to the retaining member and including at least one flexible loop of sufficient length to wrap around a medial and lateral surface of at least one bone segment.

28. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the loop, the connecting elements and the retaining member are composed of X-ray-transparent material.

29. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the loop, the connecting elements and the retaining member are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of light metals, light metal alloys, carbon and carbon-reinforced materials.
30. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the at least one loop is coordinated with two connecting elements, and is supported by the connecting elements.
31. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the connecting elements are U- shaped and each loop is wrapped around one connecting element
32. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the connecting elements are tubular, and each loop winds through one connecting element on one bone part and another connecting element on another bone part.
33. (New) The fixator of claim 24, wherein the connecting element has at least one lateral orifice a distance away from the contact end.
34. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein clamping screws fix the loop to the retaining member.
35. (New) The fixator of claim 24, wherein the control elements include screws that laterally contact at least one connecting element and pivot relative to the retaining member.
36. (New) The fixator of claim 24 wherein a skin closure zip system is located in the region of the connecting elements.
37. (New) The fixator of claim 24, wherein the retaining member forms a cover forming a completely self-contained system.
38. (New) The fixator of claim 27, wherein the loop is held in an adjustable clamping mechanism.
39. (New) The fixator of claim 38, wherein the clamping mechanism comprises a screw nipple of the Bowden cable type.
40. (New) A method for osteosynthesis using an external fixator, comprising:

attaching connecting elements to a bone surface, the connecting elements having contact ends which are supported on the bone surface without penetrating the bone surface;

connecting the connecting elements to an external retaining member by means of retaining ends which are held in the retaining member;

holding the bone distally in the direction of the retaining member by means of a counter-holder, the counter-holder comprising at least one flexible loop which wraps around a medial and lateral surface of the bone and which can be fixed to the retaining member and;

exerting a lateral clamping pressure directed towards the sagittal plane with the connecting elements.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein a control-element located in the retaining member coordinates the variation of the clamping pressure with each connecting element and each loop.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein each loop is supported on and led to at least two connecting elements.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the loop, the connecting elements and the retaining member are composed of X-ray-transparent material.

44. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the loop, the connecting elements and the retaining member are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of light metals, light metal alloys, carbon and carbon-reinforced materials.

45. (New) An external fixator for osteosynthesis, comprising:

an external retaining member configured and dimensioned for bridging separated bone segments;

a plurality of connecting elements configured and adapted for applying a clamping force to the separated bone segments, each connecting element having a first end and a second contact end, the first end configured and adapted for attachment to the retaining member and the second contact end configured and adapted for surface attachment to one of the separated bone segments without penetrating the bone segment;

- a plurality of control elements configured and adapted for varying the clamping pressure applied by the connecting elements, at least one control element being coordinated with a connecting element and supported in the retaining member; and
- a flexible loop connected to the retaining member, configured and adapted for exerting control tension on the connecting elements and of sufficient length to wrap around a medial and lateral surface of at least one bone segment.